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| | | TIPSS- 3 Questions from Conference (2nd Set) | |
| | | RFP No. TIRNO-04-R-00017 | |
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| # | Reference | Question | Answer |
| 1 | Number of Awards | It was mentioned that there was NO LIMIT to the number of awards per task areas. There is a max of 12 prime awards. Is the prime awards for each task area (i.e., 36 (12 X 3) possible awards or 12 total primes, which could be less than 12 for a task area? | Under the TIPSS-3 contract the government anticipates awarding between 8 and 12 contracts total. These 8 to 12 contracts will be spread across all three task areas with no set maximum or minimum for any one task area. The 4 to 6 SBSA are included in the total number of 8 to 12 contracts. See Section L.9 in the TIPSS-3 RFP. |
| 2 | Amendment & Due Date | If there is a revision to the RFP coming out next week, will there also be a change in proposal due date? | There is no change in the proposed due date at this time. |
| 3 | Award Period - Ramp up to July 2005 | Will contract awardees be able/allowed to change the ramp up period to the government? | No. |
| 4 | Dun & Bradstreet | Is Dun and Bradstreet data going to be pulled for all primes and subcontractors? | See Section K.5 in the TIPSS-3 RFP. |
| 5 | Past Performance | Dun & Bradstreet charges \$500 to create a report. Is there another report that can work? | Comply with the requested information in the solicitation per section K.5. |
| 6 | | In the RFP there is a mention of fixed fee and also a handling fee. Is there a difference? | Yes. The handling fee is a material handling fee for purchase of items under the T&M portion of the solicitation. (see FAR 16.601) A CPFF contract is a cost reimbursement contract that provides a payment to the contractor of a negotiated fee that is fixed at the inception of the contract. (see FAR 16.306) |
| 7 | Teaming | Separate Technical and Cost Proposals are required for each Task Area. Are you requiring all 3 volumes per task area? Please clarify. | Yes, a proposal consists of Volumes I, II, and III. See sections L.12, L.14, L.15, and L.16 as revised under Amendment 1. |
| 8 | Teaming | Is it correct to assume that you are looking for awards to prime contractors; subcontractors under the prime do not need to be identified for the RFP response and could be added after award? | Although awards will be made to prime contractors, Sections L.15.4.5, L.15.4.6, and L.16 as revised in Amendment 1 require that subcontractors be identified in proposals. |
| 9 | Teaming | Can a large business utilize a small business teammate to go after task orders specified as a small business set-aside? | No, large business awardees are ineligible to compete for small business set aside tasks. See L.13 as revised in Amendment 1. |

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| 10 | Set Aside % | In addition to the 4 - 6 set-aside awards, will the Full and Open awardees also have specified set-aside percentages to meet? Annually measured or over the program life? | There are subcontracting plan requirements required in the solicitation (see Section J.5) for all large business prime contractors submitting proposals. Small business subcontracting accomplishments are measured semi-annually via submission of SF294 and SF295 reports. |
| 11 | Subcontracting % | Is there a 40% SB subcontracting requirement for sole source acquisitions? | There is a 41% small business subcontracting requirement for each of the TIPSS 3 contracts. The 41% refers to 41% of your available subcontracting dollars. A large business prime contractor would determine during proposal submission the total dollar amount available for subcontracting, based on their based estimate of task orders to be received (both competitive and sole source). |
| 12 | Bundling Tasks | How will you prevent offices from bundling tasks to avoid the \$250K SB threshold? | The IRS Small Business Specialist will be working with the Contract Administrators for TIPSS 3 to ensure that this doesn't happen. All actions over \$2,000,000 are currently reviewed for bundling. This includes task orders and delivery orders. |
| 13 | Mentor Protégé Program (MPP) | Is it a requirement that large primes have an MPP agreement with at least one small business new to them and to Treasury or just strongly preferred? | There will be points available for large business primes who have an approved Treasury Mentor Protégé agreement. There will be an additional set of points available for large business primes who establish a new Treasury Mentor Protégé agreement with a least one small business that is both new to the large business and new to the IRS/Treasury (i.e., no previous contracts/subcontracts). See Section L.14.7 as revised in Amendment 1. |
| 14 | SDB Status | If an SDB is a subcontractor and graduates (from SDB status) after proposal submission or award, do they retain SDB status on the contract for the duration of the prime's contract? | SDB and other small business status is determined when a subcontractor submits their offer, including price, to the prime contractor. The status determination therefore is good through the life of that particular subcontract. Therefore, if your subcontract is good through the life of the contract and your pricing remains firm through the life of the contract, your status remains the same. If you submit new offers including price for each task order, your status would change with the submission of the new offer. |

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| 15 | 8(a) and SDB Targets | Is there an 8(a) target for subcontracts vs. a SDB target? In other words: does 8(a) status equal SDB for subcontracts? | For subcontract purposes, large business primes may only count certified SDB concerns as SDB in their SF294 and SF295 reports. All 8(a) companies have been certified by the Small Business Administration and are considered certified SDB concerns. Therefore, in response to the question, yes, 8(a) status equals SDB for subcontracting purposes. |
| 16 | Reps and Certs Section | Our company is a small, disadvantaged business-8(a). We meet the dollar size (\$21M) and employee head count is under 500 employees size limits. However, you have also invoked an additional net worth limitation on the owners of small 8(a) of less than \$750,000. Will that be enforced or is the fact that we are 8(a) certified be enough? | This question refers to Section K.9, FAR 52.219-22 which only applies to SDB firms proposing as a prime contractor under the full and open portion of the solicitation. |
| 17 | Small Business Set-Aside | Is the 35% each year or over the life of TIPSS-3? | The 35% set-aside amount is an estimate over the life of TIPSS 3 that approximately 35% of the task orders under TIPSS 3 will be under the \$250,000 threshold and will be set-aside strictly for small business concerns who've been awarded prime contracts under the set-aside portions of TIPSS 3. Also, see Amendment to Section B.7. |
| 18 | Woman-owned Small Business Award | You mentioned several specific types of SB awards, e.g. 8(a), veterans, etc. You did not specifically mention a Woman-owned Small Business Award (WOSB). Will there be one WOSB award? If not, why? | At this time, there is no women-owned small business set-aside within the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) language. Therefore, there is no set aside for women-owned small business concerns. We do encourage any women-owned small business to compete under the small business set-aside. |
| 19 | Evaluations | Will DHS and DOJ participate in the evaluations? | No, The IRS will be conducting the evaluations. |
| 20 | Oral Presentations | Can you provide us with an idea of the timing for at the orals (which month, for example)? | See Section L.15.6 as revised in Amendment 1. |
| 21 | Management Approach | It is our understanding we should submit a separate proposal for each Task Area, but Section L under Management Approach says that the management approach (15 page section) should address <u>all</u> task areas. Should the management approach address each Task Area independently? | See Section L.15.2 and L.15.4 as revised in Amendment 1. |

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| 22 | Resumes (for Small Businesses) | (1) Are all four needed on day one? (2) Can multiple companies use the same resume, since not all companies are going to get a contract? | (1) See Section L.15.5 as revised in Amendment 1. (2) See sections L.15.2, L.15.5, H.19, and H.20 as revised in Amendment 1. |
| 23 | Amendment | Is there going to be an amendment to add a portal requirement to the contract? | There will not be an amendment to add a portal requirement to this contract. |
| 24 | CMMI - Joint Venture | What about small business forming a joint venture to facilitate CMMI requirement? | A small business can form a joint venture; however the government will be looking to the prime to be CMMI-SW Level 2 compliant. |
| 25 | CMMI-2 | Can you conduct requirements analysis phase, but no design/development of software, without the CMMI -2 certification? | Software requirements analysis is considered part of software development. Therefore, CMMI-SW Level 2 requirements would apply. |
| 26 | CMMI | For SB prime Offerors, how will SEI CMMI-SW Level 2 status be evaluated in the scoring of proposals? Will SB Offerors who defer validation be scored lower than SB Offerors who have SEI CMMI-SW Level 2, or any SEI-CMM certification, at the time of proposal submission? In summary, how will you evaluate SB Offeror's response to the SEI-CMMI requirements? | Those SB Offerors proposing under the Partial Small Business Set-Aside (SBSA) who defer validation will not be scored lower than SB Offerors having a CMMI-SW maturity level rating at the time of proposal submission. |
| 27 | CMMI | If the IRS' policy states a subcontractor must either be a) CMMI-SW Level 2 or b) follow the policies and procedures of their certified prime contractor, can a TIPSS-3 prime contractor impose their own CMM/CMMI requirements upon their subcontractors, as a condition of being a part of the team? | The prime needs to be CMMI-SW Level 2 qualified. Subcontractors would be evaluated under the process area. |
| 28 | CMMI | As an 8(a) company, can we delay CMMI compliance if we propose under Full and Open? | A small business proposing under Full and Open will be subject to the same terms and conditions as large businesses. See Section J.8.2 as revised in Amendment 1. |
| 29 | CMMI | If we defer CMMI compliance as permitted for 8(a) companies, how will that affect the evaluation of our proposal? | It does not affect the overall score. The evaluation of the CMMI-SW Level 2 rating will be deferred until after contract award but prior to software task order award. See Section J.8.2 as revised in Amendment 1. |

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| 30 | CMMI | Small businesses are often part of larger project teams, not in charge of the project. If the project is certified CMMI L2, and the small business is not the lead, does that certification apply to the small business as well? | In order to participate in developing software on a project that has been assessed at CMMI-SW Level 2, the small business must either a) be assessed at CMMI-SW Level 2 or b) be following that project's CMMI-SW Level 2 processes. |
| 31 | CMM | If software development is performed 'on-site' at Treasury, will the CMM review be performed there or at company home-site? | Post-award CMMI-SW Review activities that require interactions with company personnel in the form of briefings and/or interviews can be performed at either the government site or the company home-site. We will accommodate whichever works best for the company. |
| 32 | CMM | Will IRS accept CMM as a substitute for CMMI? | No, only CMMI-SW Level 2 will be accepted. |
| 33 | SCAMPI | Who pays for the SCAMPI? Will all contractors need to participate in Phase IV? | Paying for the SCAMPI conducted by a qualified external assessor is a contractor's responsibility. The PARM process, including Phase IV, is a post-award activity only. Phase IV of the PARM process is an IRS-conducted SCAMPI. A Phase IV is conducted if the IRS is unable to determine whether the contractor's annual PARM submission meets PARM criteria. Not all contractors are subject to Phase IV during PARM. |
| 34 | CMM | Does a reseller of a solution have to be compliant with CMM? There is no software development involved. | If no software development is involved, then no CMMI-SW Level 2 requirement exists. However, if the reseller performs any software development activities (including integration and tailoring), then CMMI-SW Level 2 is required. |
| 35 | CMMI | If the small business only bids the SSS and/or SBS task areas, do they need to get CMMI certification? | Only software development activities require CMMI-SW Level 2 compliance. |
| 36 | CMMI | Does CMMI SW Level 2 apply to efforts associated with TIPSS-3 task area for strategic business services - "Technical support for the Disabled" specifically customization of automated interfaces? | Customization of COTS products is considered a software development activity. Therefore, CMMI-SW Level 2 requirements would apply. |
| 37 | CMMI Level 2 | The RFP requires three (3) projects to be certified at CMMI Level 2. Is the requirement for <u>both</u> large and small businesses? Also, the RFP requires that 20% of the technical staff be following Level 2 processes. Please clarify. | See Sections J.8.3 and L.14.4.3 as revised in Amendment 2. |

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| 38 | SDB Certification | According to SBA, once you submit your SDB certification application, you can function bid as a certified SDB until they render a decision. | I believe you are referring to the SDB certification for purposes of the 10% price evaluation adjustment if your company submits a proposal under the full and open acquisition as a prime contractor. In that case, we would need a decision from SDB as to the certification of your company as a certified SDB concern by the date of award. If a decision could not be rendered by the schedule award date, we would not evaluate your price with the 10% differential nor consider your company as a certified SDB for award purposes. |
| 39 | SB Subcontracting Targets | Will there be penalties for primes who fail to reach SB subcontracting targets? OR will there be incentives for primes who reach these targets? | After contract award, large business prime contractors will be required to meet their subcontracting goals. Part of every task order review will be a review of the subcontracting plan accomplishments to date. Prime contractors who do not meet their goals and do not provide a satisfactory explanation to the designated TIPSS-3 Contracting Officer may be excluded from competition for future task orders. There are no contract incentives in place for those primes who meet their goals. However, the Department of the Treasury yearly honors a Large Business Partner of the Year. Any prime who exceeds their goals under the TIPSS 3 contract will be nominated for this award. Small business accomplishments are measured via submission of SF294 and SF295 reports. |
| 40 | Mentor Protégé Program | If a small business is in an official mentor protégé program as a mentor, will the small business receive any points toward the final TIPSS-3 evaluation? | At this time, the mentor-protégé program and any points associated with the mentor-protégé program will be restricted to large businesses under the full and open portion of the solicitation. Small businesses proposing as a prime under the full and open portion of the solicitation will be given maximum points for this requirement. See Section L.14.7 of Amendment 1. |
| 41 | Mentor Protégé Program | Since TIPSS-3 is a MAC that also provides a vehicle to DHS, is an approved DHS Mentor Protégé agreement usable in place of a Treasury Mentor Protégé agreement? | An approved DHS Mentor Protégé agreement is not acceptable. The requirement under this solicitation is an approved Treasury Mentor Protégé agreement. |
| 42 | Proposal Submission | As an 8(a) company, can we submit a proposal for both small business as well as 8(a) categories? | No, 8(a) is a subset of small business. One can submit a proposal under one or the other, but not both. |

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| 43 | SB Size | Please define the "Small Business". Is it (1) \$21Million average in 3 years revenue? OR 1,500 employees? | The small business size standard for the TIPSS 3 solicitation is \$21 Million in Average Annual Receipts. |
| 44 | SF 295 | F-295 forms are prepared by contract. Can bidders choose which contract SF-295 to submit? Do you prefer SF-295 from Treasury contracts like TIPSS-2? | Large business prime contractors can choose which SF295s to submit. There is no preference for Treasury contracts. The SF295s for any incumbent contractors from TIPSS 2 are readily available and will be reviewed. |
| 45 | Resumes | Can resumes be for teammate personnel or only prime Offeror? | See Sections L.15.2 and L.15.5 as revised through Amendment 1. |
| 46 | Background Checks | If person already has a security clearance from another agency, do they still need the background check to work TIPSS-3 tasking? | See Section C.4.6 as revised in Amendment 1. |
| 47 | Past Performance | Do we provide past performance information as part of Volume I or will Contracting Officer check NIH reference? | See Section M.4.2 of the TIPSS-3 RFP. |
| 48 | Past Performance | If a new Joint Venture is established, composed of small businesses, do you require a minimum of 3 "total" past performance profiles which can come from any of the JV members? | See Sections L.15.2, L.15.3, L.15.3.1, and L.15.3.2 as revised in Amendment 1. |
| 49 | Small Business Evaluation | Will you look more at a small business' own capabilities or at its team's capabilities when you make award decision? | See section M.3 of the TIPSS-3 RFP. |
| 50 | Project Profiles | Is a profile required for each subcontractor you have on your team or just those that are going to do significant work? | See Sections L.15.3 and M.4.2 as revised in Amendment 1. |
| 51 | F&O, ISS | As a large business Under Full and Open can compete on <u>only</u> the ISS Task Area and submit one proposal. Correct? | See Amendment to Section C.6 Principal Task Areas. |
| 52 | Project Managers | What happens if our Project Managers, QA etc., the people we sent resumes for, say they leave the company, etc? Time from proposal due date to award date is one year. | See Sections H.19, H.20, and L.15.5 as revised through Amendment 1. |
| 53 | Additional Subcontractors | As a small business, I intend to propose the ISS Task Area. Since subcontracting is allowed after award, will I also be allowed to bid on work under the SSS and SBS based on additional subcontracts? | Large and small businesses who propose under F&O are required to submit a proposal under ISS to propose on either of the other two task areas. Small businesses do not have this restriction when proposing under the SBSA. See Section L.13 as revised in Amendment 1. |

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| 54 | Past Performance Profiles | Small business bidders need only submit three profiles. Can small business submit more profiles if the 30-page limit is not exceeded? If they do this, will the length of their "shorter" profiles be problematic? | Offerors must adhere to the minimum number of profiles and the page limitation set forth in Section L.15.2 of Amendment 1. |